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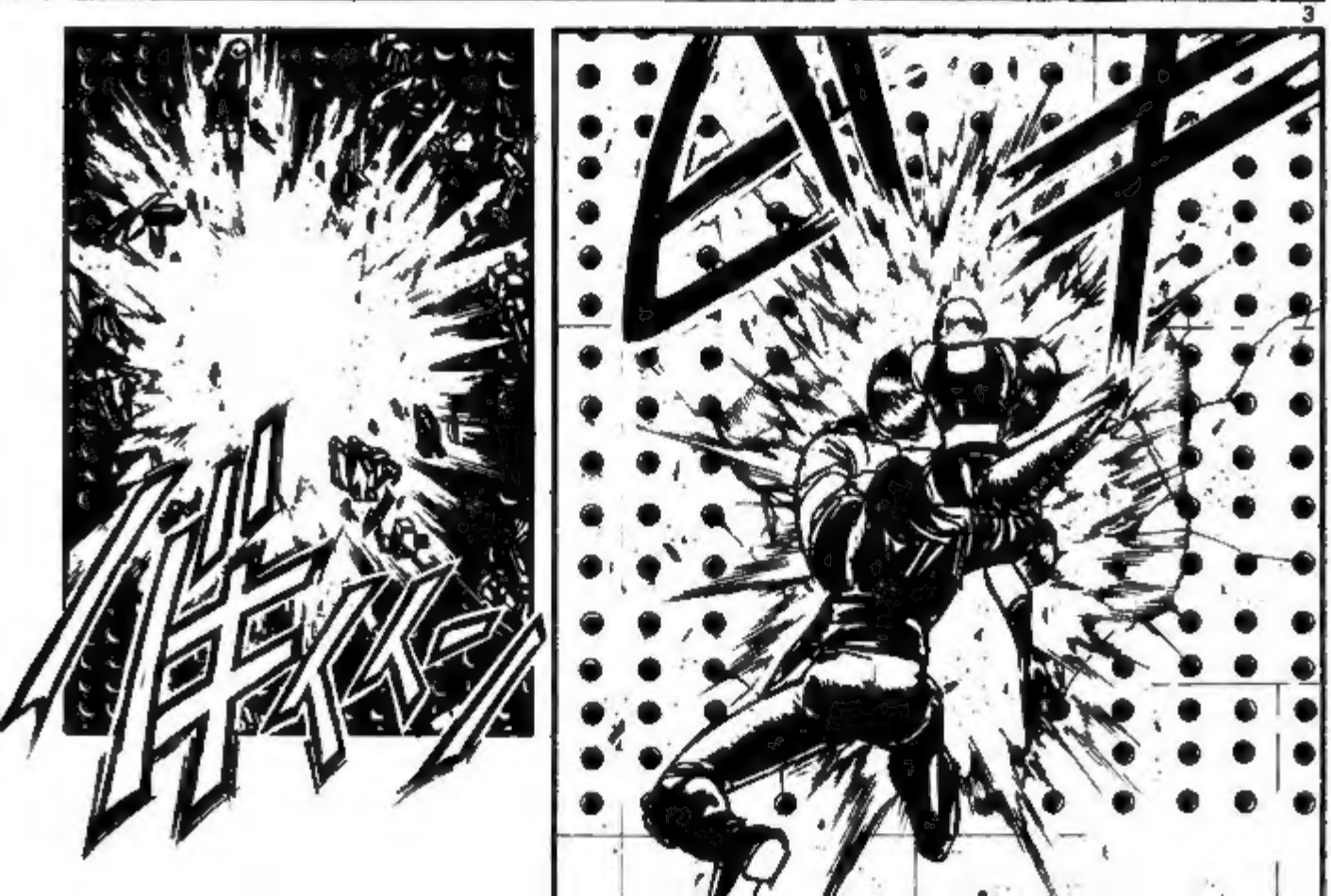
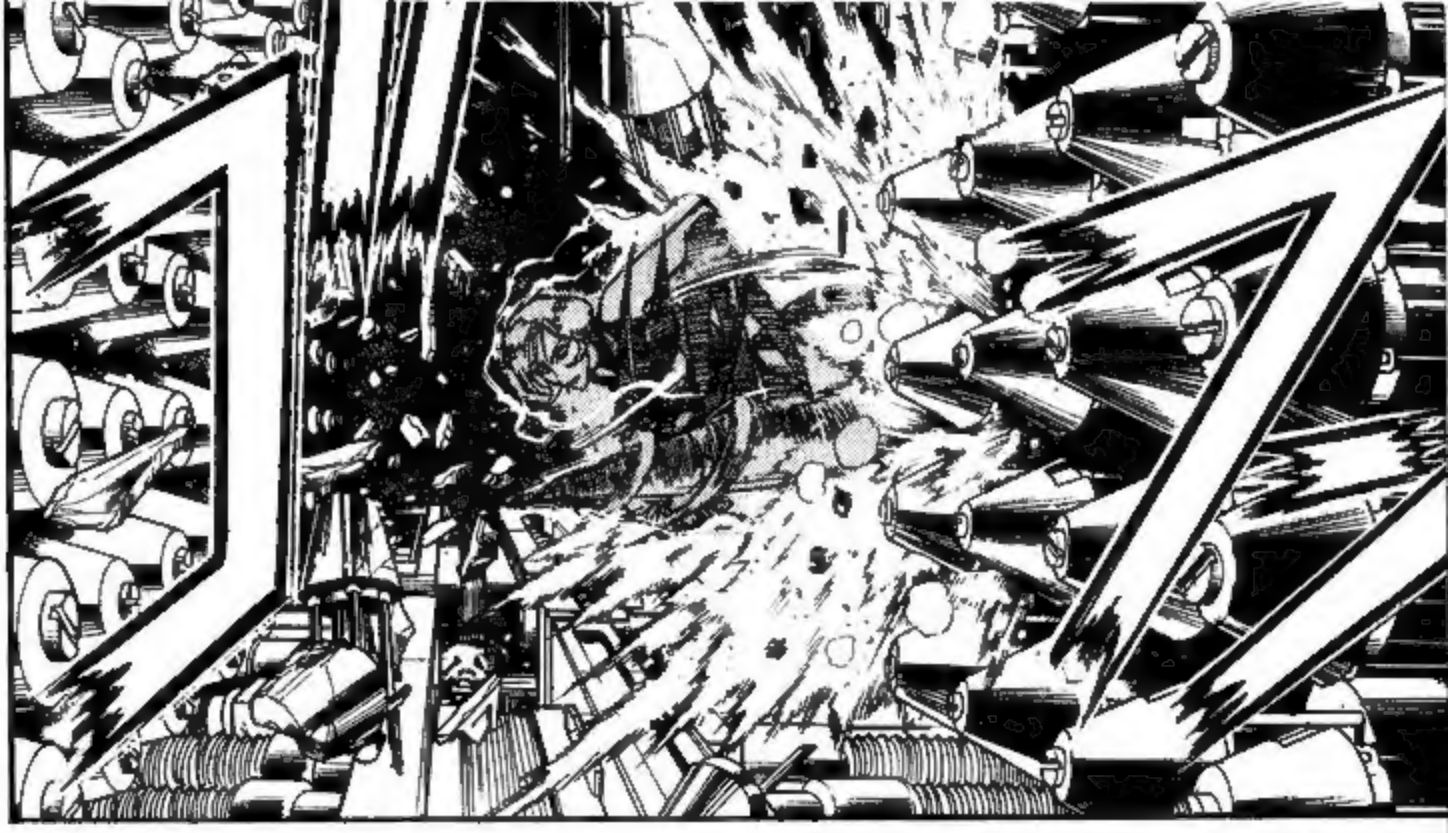
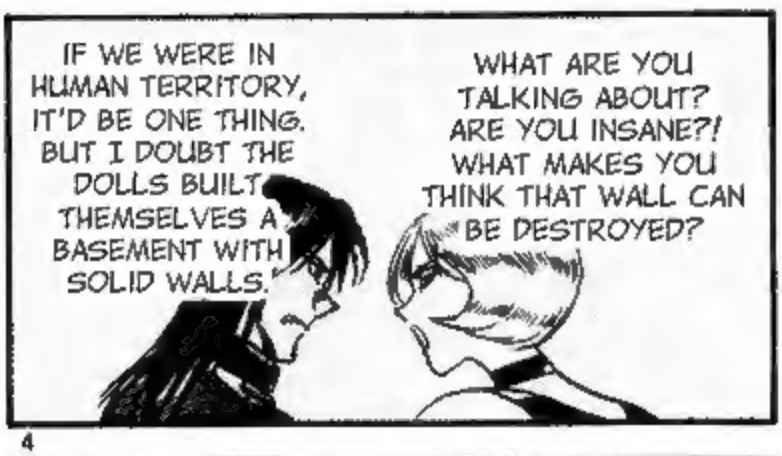
BE QUIET. CAN'T YOU WAIT A FEW SECONDS ...?
HEY, SHIRO-GANE-O! HURRY IT UP!
SHUT... UP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
JUST GIVE UP AND FALL INTO THE ABYSS.
I HAVE HIGH TORQUE MOTORS IN MY LEGS, AND MY DRILLS ARE MADE OUT OF A SPECIAL SHAPE-MEMORY ALLOY ...
BUT I'M NOT SURE IF EVEN THEY CAN DO THIS...



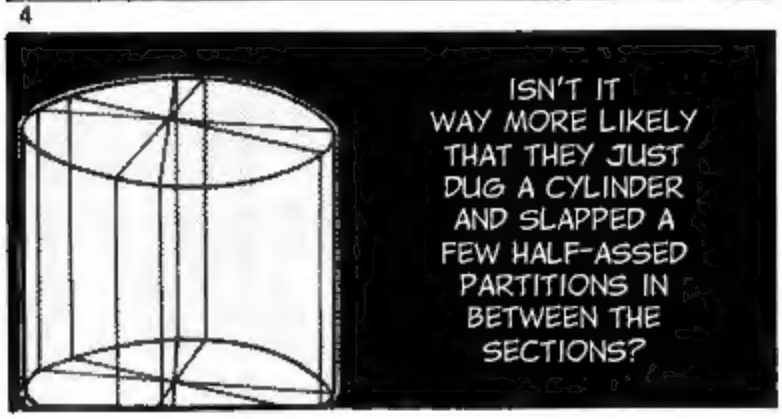


NO NEED TO GO THAT FAR.
A DOLT ...?

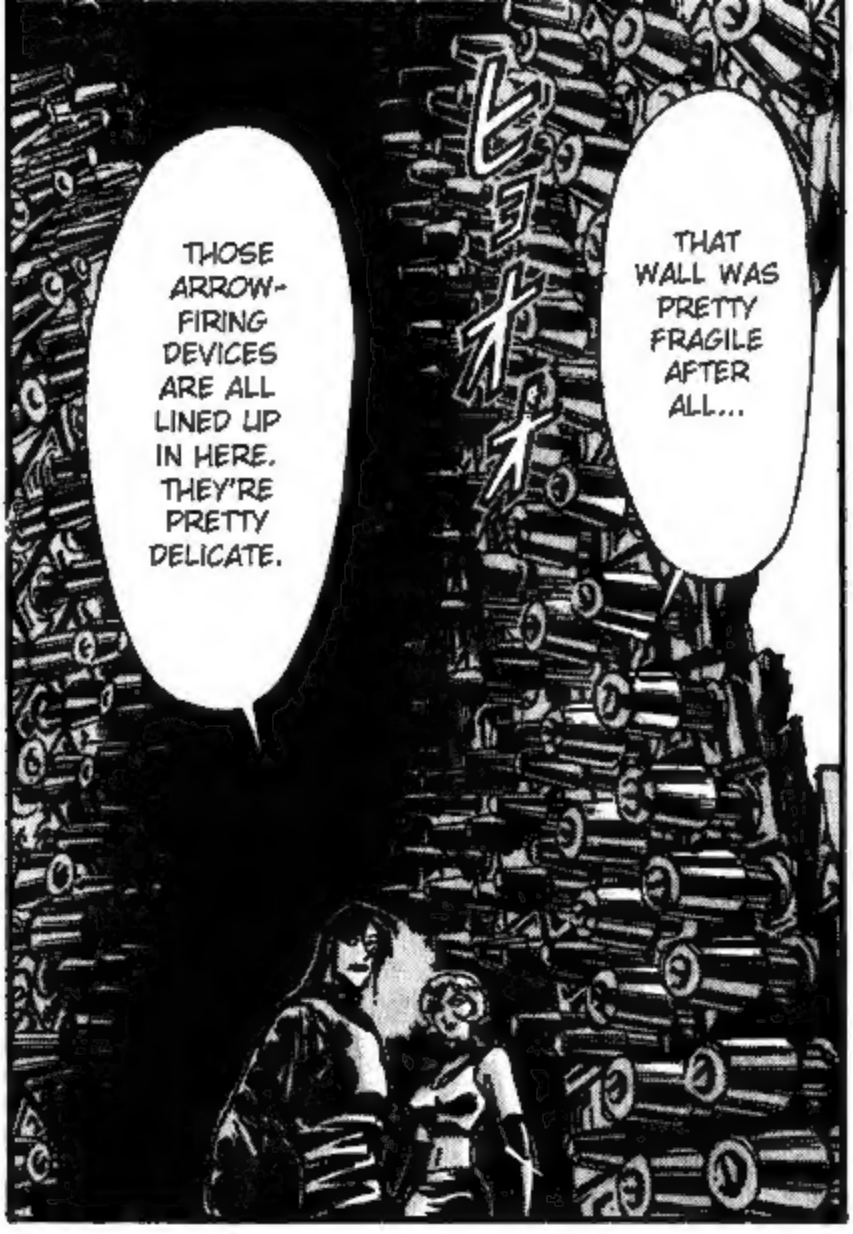
...HOO! WELL, YOU MAY LOOK LIKE A DOLT, BUT THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA YOU CAME UP WITH.


IF WE WERE IN HUMAN TERRITORY, IT'D BE ONE THING. BUT I DOUBT THE DOLLS BUILT THEMSELVES A BASEMENT WITH SOLID WALLS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ARE YOU INSANE?! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT WALL CAN BE DESTROYED?

USE ME AS A FOOTHOLD, AND DRILL A HOLE IN THE WALL.
WHAT?
WHEN THE FLOOR DROPS, JUMP FOR THE WALL!


ISN'T IT WAY MORE LIKELY THAT THEY JUST DUG A CYLINDER AND SLAPPED A FEW HALF-ASSED PARTITIONS IN BETWEEN THE SECTIONS?

OH, YEAH? IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE THE DUMB ONE!
OH, SO YOU'VE GOT A BRAIN IN THERE AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE SO MUCH LIKE A ROBOT THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN THINK FOR YOUR-SELF!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THOSE ARROW-FIRING DEVICES ARE ALL LINED UP IN HERE. THEY'RE PRETTY DELICATE.
THAT WALL WAS PRETTY FRAGILE AFTER ALL...

FACE-LESS ...?

THAT'S THE REASON COMMANDER FACELESS BUILT US IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THEY'RE ALWAYS GETTING KILLED BECAUSE OF THEIR EMOTIONS.
HMPH! THAT'S RIGHT, I AM. THE REGULAR SHIROGANE AREN'T ROBOTIC ENOUGH.

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A DELAY OF A TENTH OF A SECOND WILL BEGIN TO MANIFEST IN THEIR MOVEMENT.
IF THEIR COMRADES OR OTHER HUMANS ARE TAKEN HOSTAGE, OR IF PAINFUL MEMORIES ARE PROVOKED ...
THEY SIMPLY HAVE A SMALLER RANGE THAN HUMANS DO.
IT ISN'T TRUE THAT SHIROGANE HAVE NO EMOTIONS.

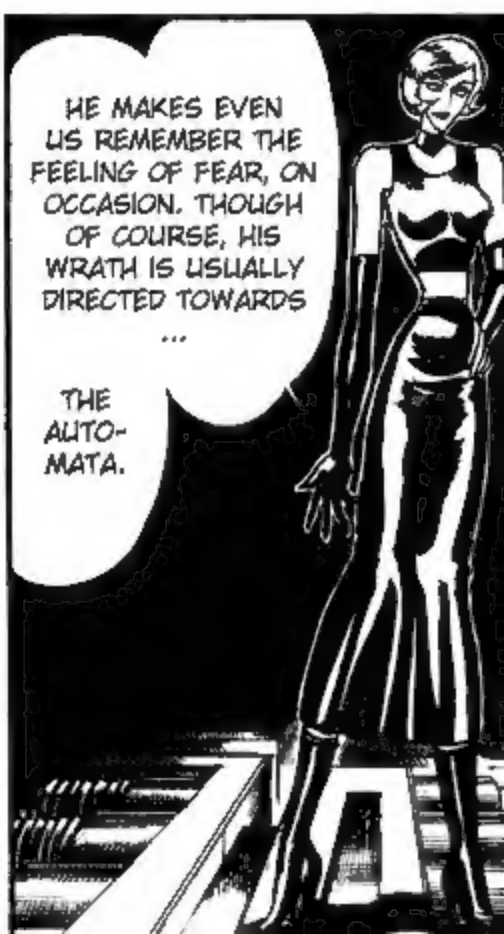
AND THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T WIN. NOT AS LONG AS YOU DON'T VALUE LIFE OR UNDERSTAND HOW TO FIGHT *WITH* PEOPLE.
WE SHIRO-GANE-O ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST, CHOSEN BY COMMANDER FACELESS TO HAVE MACHINERY BUILT INTO OUR VERY BODIES.
THAT'S WHY WE DISCARDED EMOTIONS COMPLETELY, LIKE THE DOLLS WE DESTROY ...

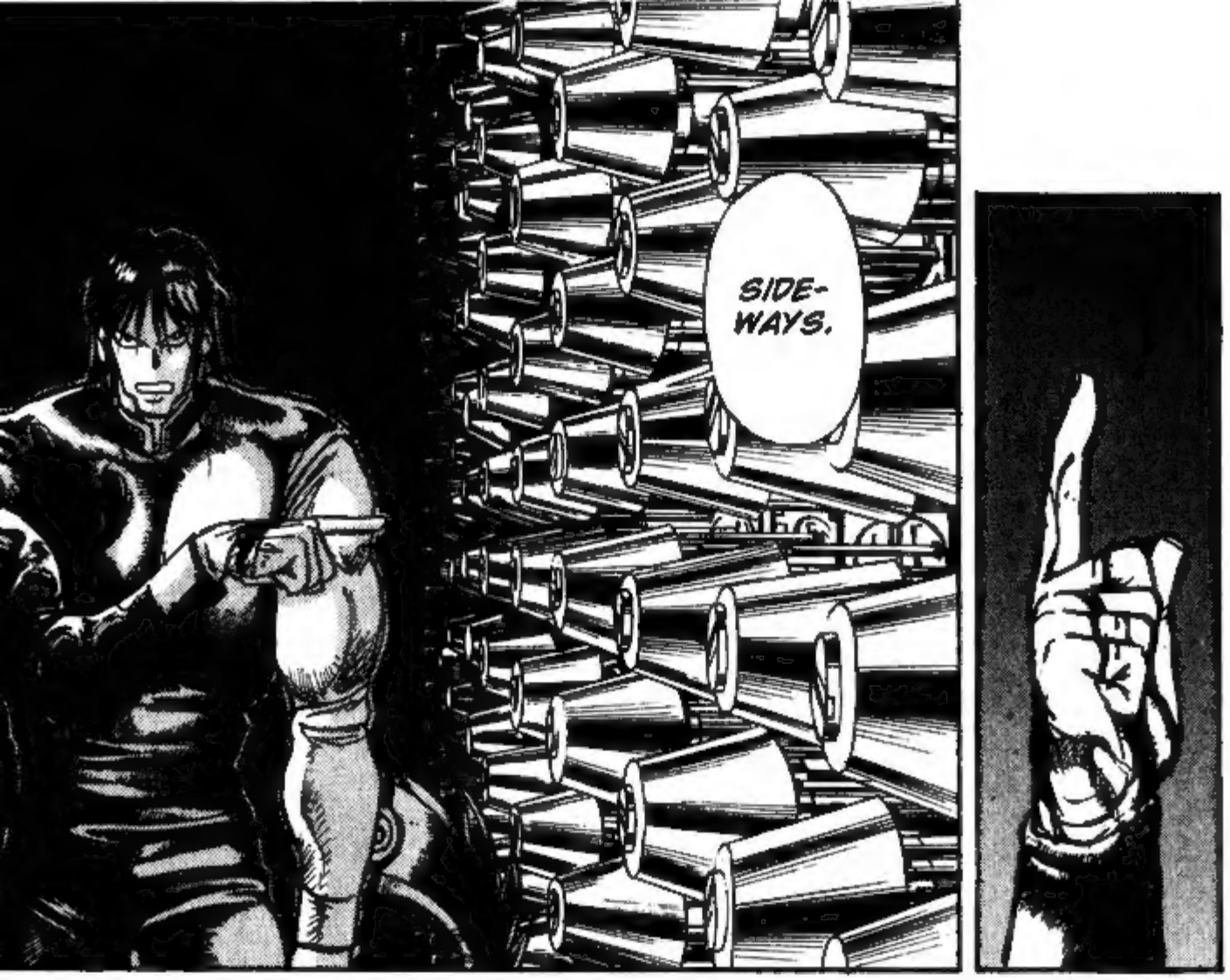
HE'S A SCARY PERSON ...
WHAT KIND OF GUY ... IS FACE-LESS?

WE HAVE NOT BEEN MODIFIED TO ALLOW FOR THAT.
HMPH. .....

...WELL THEN, WHERE *ARE* YOU GOING?
SORRY, BUT I'M NOT HEADED THAT WAY.

NOW LET'S GO. FRANCINE'S ROOM IS IN THAT DIRECTION, ISN'T IT?
HOLD ON.
SCARY, HUH ...


HE MAKES EVEN US REMEMBER THE FEELING OF FEAR, ON OCCASION. THOUGH OF COURSE, HIS WRATH IS USUALLY DIRECTED TOWARDS ... THE AUTO-MATA.


SIDE-
WAYS.

AND
HOW
DO YOU
KNOW
THAT?

OUR
COMRADES
HAVE GOTTA
BE ON THE
OTHER SIDE
OF THIS
WALL.
WH-
WHAT
...?

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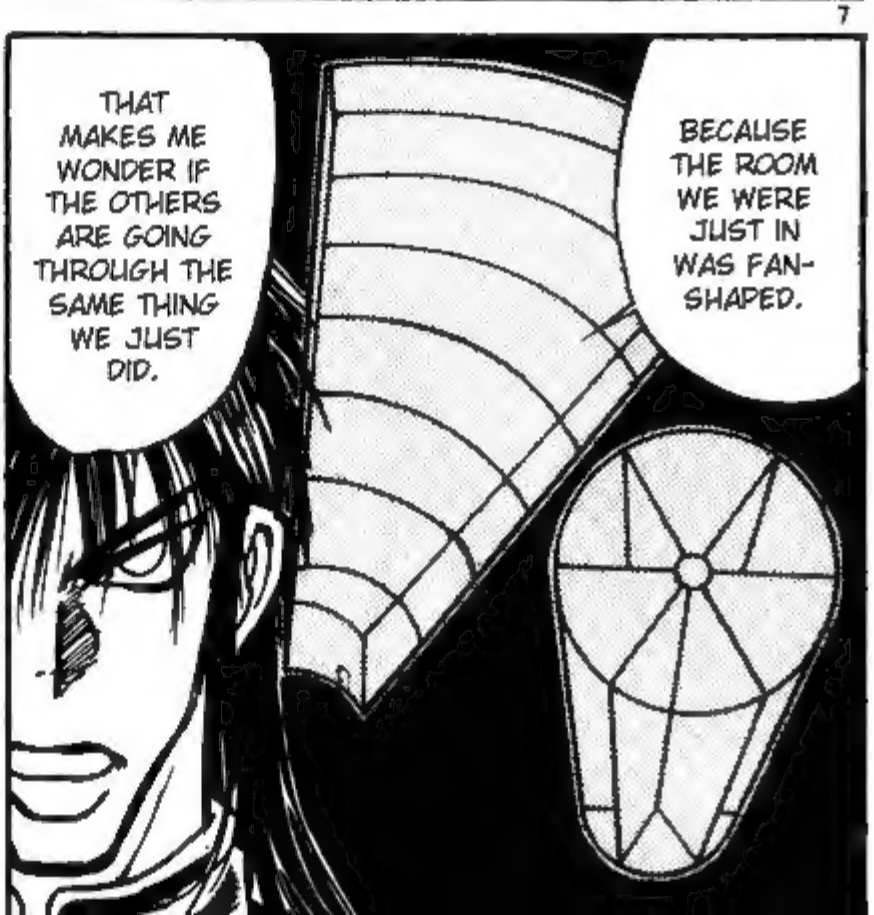
I SEE.
BUT OUR
MISSION IS
TO TAKE
OUT THE
MISTRESS
OF THE
AUTOMATA,
THE DOLL
FRANCINE.
OUR
COM-
RADES
DO NOT
FIGURE
INTO
THAT.


THAT
MAKES ME
WONDER IF
THE OTHERS
ARE GOING
THROUGH THE
SAME THING
WE JUST
DID.
BECAUSE
THE ROOM
WE WERE
JUST IN
WAS FAN-
SHAPED.

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
HMPH! THAT'S THEIR CONCERN, THEN. THEY CAN SORT IT OUT HOWEVER THEY LIKE.

ONLY ONE OF YOU WILL MEET WITH LADY FRANCINE.
IT COULD BE THAT OUR COMRADES ARE BEING ORDERED TO KILL EACH OTHER JUST LIKE WE WERE.

BUT, Y'KNOW, SINCE I CAME HERE AND STARTED FIGHTING WITH YOU GUYS, I'VE STARTED TO FEEL LIKE I JUST DON'T FIT IN.
UP TILL A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I WOULD'VE SAID I WAS.

... ARE YOU ... REALLY A SHIRO-GANE?

HEY, SHIRO-GANE-O.

I'M JUST NARUMI.
KATOU NARUMI.

IF YOU USE THINGS LIKE YOUR JOB AND YOUR MISSION ...
AS A KNIFE TO PRUNE THINGS OFF OF YOURSELF ...
SOME-WHERE ALONG THE LINE YOU'RE GONNA END UP CUTTING YOUR OWN NAME OFF TOO.
COULD YOU DRILL A HOLE RIGHT HERE BEFORE YOU GO?
.....
I DON'T UNDER-STAND A WORD YOU SAY.
HM-PH.

OH ...!
PHEW ...
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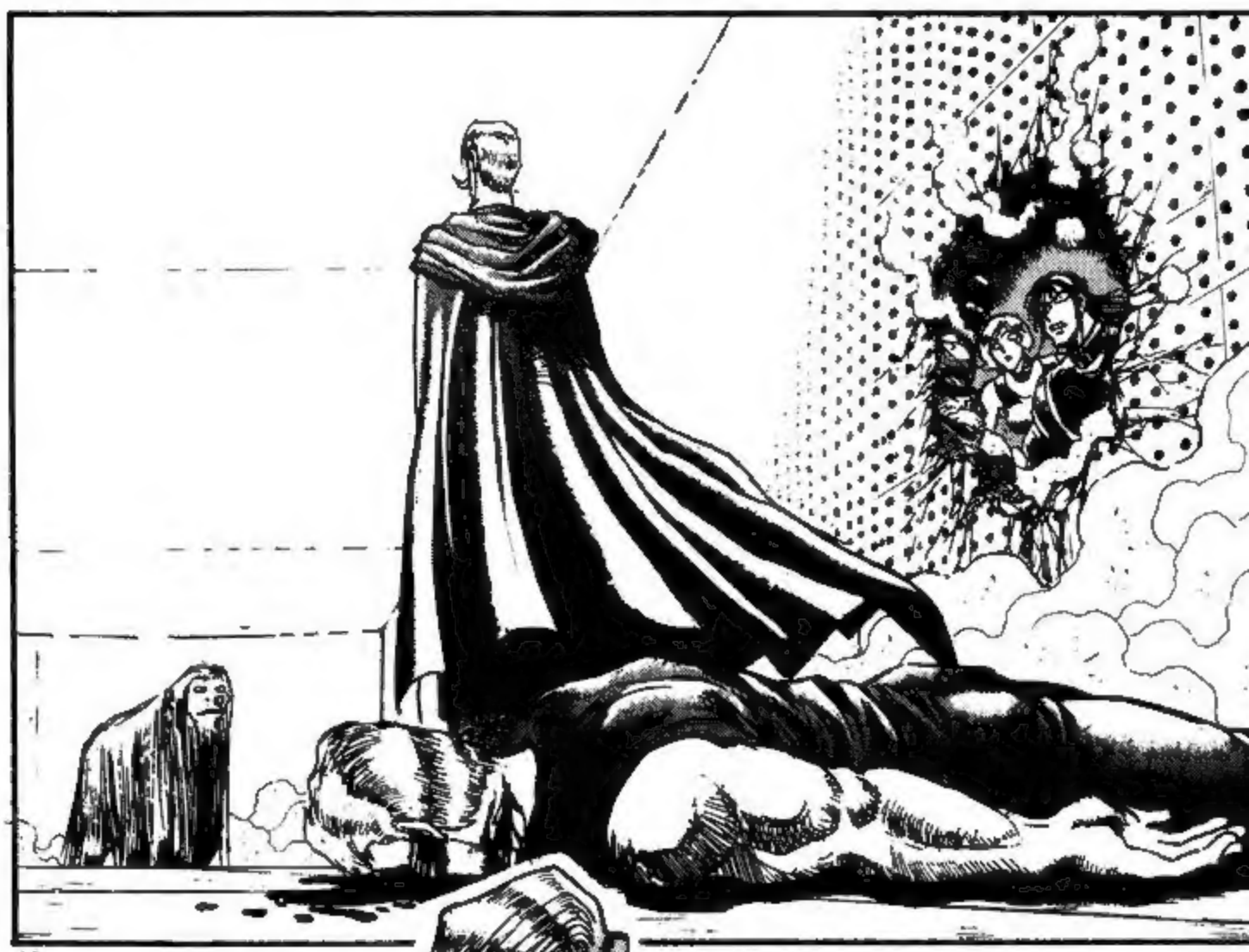
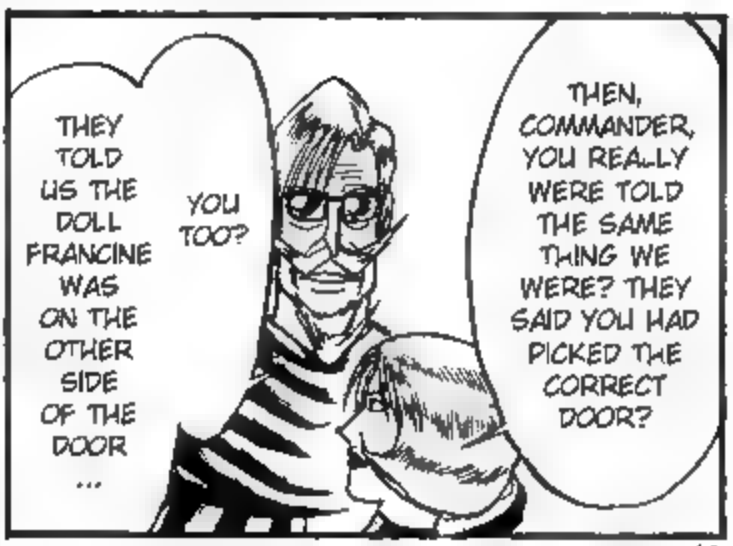


NARUMI, LINA. SO YOU'RE SAFE.
OH ...

AND ...
SO WE FOUND YOU, THE DOG ...
THAT I AM!
COM-MAN-DER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?

THE THREE OF US WERE TOLD TO FIGHT IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHO WOULD LEAVE... BUT IT WAS A PITIABLE DEATH NONETHELESS.
KAUF ...?

I COULD NEVER KILL THEM WITH THOSE SAME HANDS ...
...AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, THE SHIROGANE-O ARE CHILDREN I HAVE BROUGHT UP WITH MY OWN HANDS.


THEY TOLD US THE DOLL FRANCINE WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR ...
YOU TOO?
THEN, COMMANDER, YOU REALLY WERE TOLD THE SAME THING WE WERE? THEY SAID YOU HAD PICKED THE CORRECT DOOR?

WERE YOU THE ONE WHO KILLED THAT SHIRO-GANE-O?

THEY'RE THE ONES WHO DID IT...

IF YOU SURVIVE, YOU CAN LEAVE THROUGH THIS EXIT!
THIS IS EVEN MORE FUN...! NOW THE FOUR OF YOU CAN KILL EACH OTHER!
HEY, HEY, SOME MORE CAME IN THROUGH THE WALL!
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DON'T TRY TO RESIST! IF YOU DO, WE'LL KILL YOU WITH THESE GUNS!
BUT THESE NEWCOMERS SEEM LIKE A REAL PAIR OF RULE-BREAKERS!

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BUT ...!

WE HAVE 12 MINUTES LEFT ...
TCH! SO IT'S THE SAME IN HERE.
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MAY-BE ...
OR ...!

WERE THE DOLLS REALLY THE ONES WHO KILLED THAT SHIROGANE-O ...?

FACELESS... HE'S A CRAFTY GUY.
THE AUTOMATA KNEW ABOUT OUR PLAN...

COULD THIS GUY BE ...!

A SPY FOR THE AUTO-MATA?!
YOU FIND ME SUS-PICIOUS ...
DON'T YOU, NARU-MI?
!?

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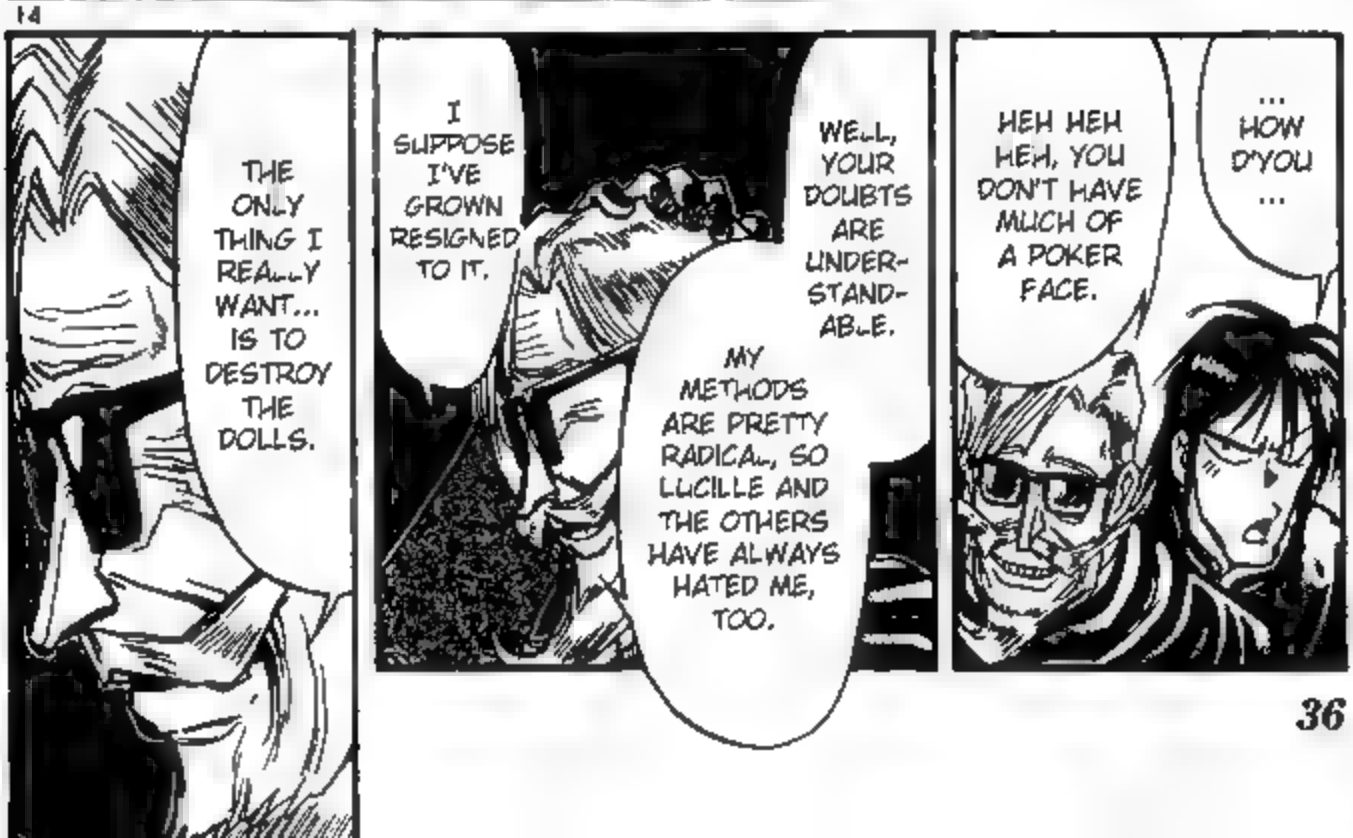
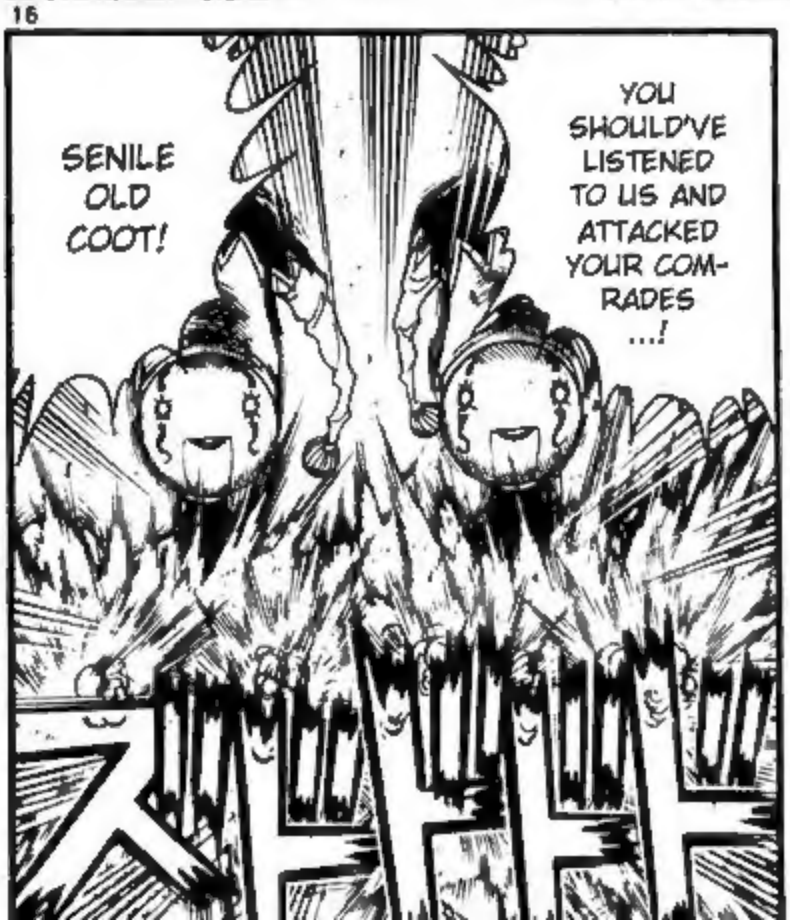

... HOW D'YOU ...
HEH HEH HEH, YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A POKER FACE.
WELL, YOUR DOUBTS ARE UNDER-STAND-ABLE.
I SUPPOSE I'VE GROWN RESIGNED TO IT.
MY METHODS ARE PRETTY RADICAL, SO LUCILLE AND THE OTHERS HAVE ALWAYS HATED ME, TOO.
THE ONLY THING I REALLY WANT... IS TO DESTROY THE DOLLS.

NARUMI... I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DISPEL THEIR DOUBTS, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO DISPEL YOURS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
YOU PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED BAI YIN'S MEMORIES, DIDN'T YOU? FROM WHAT I HEAR, IT WAS THE STORY OF AN UNFORTUNATE MAN WHO WAS TORN APART FROM THE WOMAN HE LOVED...
...YEAH.
...IN THAT CASE ...
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDER-STAND ME.
THE REASON I BECAME A SHIRO-GANE WAS BECAUSE ...
IT WAS PAINFUL, WASN'T IT?
.....
...I FELT LIKE I WAS GOING TO DIE.

MY WIFE WAS STOLEN BY AN AUTOMA-TON.


SENILE OLD COOT!
YOU SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO US AND ATTACKED YOUR COM-RADES ...!

HOLD ON! LOOK OUT!
COM-MAN-DER!

FOUL, SOULLESS TOYS...
I DESPISE YOU.

EARTH TO EARTH, ASHES TO ASHES ...
AND AB-HORRENT DOLLS ...
TO GEARS.

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

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Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.